

The District of Oregon has released an updated Severe Weather Policy.

Severe weather raises the question whether the federal courthouses in Portland, Eugene, or Medford will be closed. When severe weather strikes, the decision to close a courthouse will proceed as follows:

1. If the severe weather occurs on a school day and the local school district decides not to close or delay school, the respective courthouse will remain open. In Portland, the relevant local school district is the Portland Public School District. In Eugene, the relevant local school districts are 4J, Bethel, and Springfield. In Medford, the relevant local school district is the Medford Public School District.

2. If the severe weather occurs on a school day and the relevant local school district decides to close or delay school, the Chief Judge will decide whether to follow suit. That judge, in consultation with the Clerk of Court and other agency executives, may decide to close the courthouse, delay the start of official business, or remain open for business with no delays.

3. If the severe weather occurs on a non-school day, the closure decision will be made by the Chief Judge, in consultation with others.

4. If no official notice of closure or delay of opening is posted on the court website and there is no voice mail message advising otherwise, court employees and the public may assume the court is open for business.

5. A decision to delay opening the courthouse will simply delay the start of any proceeding that day by the amount of the delay. For example, a two-hour delay will result in a nine o'clock hearing taking place at eleven o'clock. If the delayed start time would occur after five p.m. (for example, a two-hour delay of a three o'clock hearing), the hearing will be delayed to the following business day, unless the parties are notified otherwise. However, unless specifically notified, the criminal calendar will remain at 1:30 p.m.

Severe weather raises the question whether the federal courthouses in Portland, Eugene, or Medford will be closed. When severe weather strikes, the decision to close a courthouse willThe District of Oregon has laid out our severe weather policy. This policy states what factors determine whether an individual court will proceed as planned or not. Click the "Read more" link for more details on this policy.